

THE PERISCOPE

BY
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Up to Governor Cane. Chas. Stora Worried. Sales Tax Is Not Dead. "Too Hot to Handle". Approval of the tentative budget by five members of the cabinet, which would require an increase of nearly seven mills in the state tax rate, has laid upon the doorstep of Governor Cane the responsibility for either taking personal command of the 1939 Legislature or permitting the lawmakers to embark upon the stormy legislative seas without instructions from the captain or a chart showing the shoals and reefs in the path of the ship of state.

The recommendations of the budget commission, minus the signature of the chief executive, embody substantial increases in appropriations for several major departments as well as salary boosts

for cabinet officers and the governor. But the commission, in the opinion of many observers in Tallahassee, made public the recommendations without any idea that the findings would meet with the governor's approval nor the approval of the finance and taxation committees of the house and senate. All the proposed budget amounts to, therefore, is simply an itemized list of what the cabinet believes the state government should receive if the present set-up is maintained.

Nevertheless, the budget report has put the governor in an ex-

ceedingly tight spot because the chief executive, by his failure to sign the recommendations, must either submit a minority report to the legislature or give the lawmakers a concise summary of his own views on budgetary matters in his message.

In brief, the budget commission has finished its job and has laid to the governor: "Here are our views. What are yours?"

Hence the Legislature has every right to expect the governor, since he apparently does not agree with the budget commission, to provide a definite recommendation of his own and this writer believes such a recommendation will be contained in the message, contrary to other observers' opinion that the governor will give the Legislature only a sketchy outline upon which to frame a new financial program.

Close perusal of the budget commission's report, however, reveals a number of interesting facts. First, the report cleared all doubts about the state deficit. There is a shortage and a whopping big one. So all the debate between State Comptroller J. M. Lee and State Treasurer W. V. Knott simmers down to a question of simple arithmetic, regardless of "varmarked funds" and other fold-out.

All the Legislature is interested in is exactly how much money must be provided to meet unpaid bills and get the state out of the red and the budget commission report has answered the question beyond any further argument. Hence this \$2,000,000 deficit must be placed at the top of any tabulation compiled by finance and taxation committees and this fact alone makes it difficult to believe that the Legislature will repeal any present sources of revenue unless replacement money is in sight. This would indicate that the junking of the gross receipts tax is by no means certain and that the merchants might better concentrate on fighting a sales tax.

Florida chain stores are busy contacting members of the Legislature about a proposed bill, which would provide a 25c minimum, strictly cash in advance—cash or stamps.

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BELLE GLADE PHONE 35

has been described as a modified form of the recovery act that furnished so much fireworks during the last two sessions. Independent merchants, better organized than ever before, are pushing the measure and leaders believe they have an excellent chance of passing the bill, too. Tipped as floor leader in the upper branch is Senator Pat Whitaker, a veteran Tampa soldier, who is coming back this session to a senate of which he is a past president.

Sen. Whitaker, if he leads the fight for the modified "recovery" bill will give the chain stores plenty of trouble because the fiery Hillsborough county solon is one of the best orators in Florida and packs plenty of punch in his words and tumble debate.

Recovery bill opposition, in all probability, will be headed by Sen. Spoor Holland, of Bartow, who has filled this role in the 1935 and 1937 sessions, teaming with Sen. Philip Beall, of Pensacola.

Proponents of the "recovery" act are confident their bill will sail through the House by a comfortable margin but admit the senate is doubtful. Checking the senate roll-call at present indicates the bill will be defeated by a slender margin of six votes.

Rejection of the proposed transaction tax by members of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce does not mean the death of the measure, as this writer's endorsement of President Harold Cane and nothing else.

But the state budget commission's report supplies the basis for whether the sales tax has been laid away in mothballs. If the Legislature does not approve an increase of almost seven mills in the state tax rate, then new revenue must be found somewhere. So how can any reasonable person believe that the sales tax is a dead issue?

There won't be any changes made in the present gasoline tax allocation, insofar as the distribution to the counties is concerned. Best evidence of this was found in comment of a legislator at the recent department conference in Ft. Lauderdale. Asked if the conference would take up a reshuffle of the gas tax, the solon

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replied that the subject was "too hot to handle".

Beyond a possible earmarking of one penny of gas tax now going to the State Road Department to guarantee the state's share of a gigantic highway building program, the gas tax set-up will not be disturbed.

GLEE CLUB SINGS
FOR THE ROTES

Miss Anita Mitchell and her Palmdale high school glee club entertained members of the Palmdale Rotary club yesterday at the regular weekly meeting of the club held in the Masonic hall. Miss Gloria John Dulaney was at the piano during the rendition of several songs which were thoroughly enjoyed by all Rotes.

Miss Mitchell and her group presented four songs: "My Sunshine," "Gypsy Sweethearts," "Bells of St. Marys," and "Come on Down South." Members of the Rotary club joined the glee club group in singing the last song.

BRIDGE COST

Cost of the new Hillsborough bridge span, to be constructed during the next six months by the Paul Smith Construction Company of Gaines City, is \$100,000, according to details disclosed this week. The bridge will be of the modern highway design, it was learned.

"Tarzan in Exile" is the title of a movie now being made at Silver Springs, with MGM's Johnny Weissmuller playing the part of Tarzan. Shooting of the new film began this week.

BEAUTY SHOP TO CONTINUE
UNDER SAME MANAGEMENT

It was announced last week that Miss Ann Conley would take over the management of the Canal Point beauty shop being operated by Mrs. Elmer Jones and known as Margaret's Beauty Shop. The deal was not consummated as scheduled and the shop will continue to be operated as Margaret's Beauty Shop by Mrs. Jones. She invites her many friends and customers to continue their patronage of the shop.

Republicans of Florida have been asked to gather at Orlando March 25 for an "unofficial" statewide conference. E. E. Galloway, republican candidate for governor in 1936, issued the call to prepare for a "militant campaign in 1940".

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Community Happenings

IN BELLE GLADE

Social And Personal . . . Fraternal And Civic Clubs

One of the most delightful social events of the season was the "Silver Tea" held Wednesday afternoon by the Ladies Aid Society at the beautiful home of Mrs. W. R. Hooker. Mrs. Ralph Freeman and Mrs. Herbert Beck, who were in charge of the program, presented the following musical numbers: Song, "In the Garden," by Church Choir; Piano Duet, "Blue Danube," Jena Hooker and Barbara Will; Piano Solo, "Butterfly," Marion Gold; "Rosary," Barbara Will; Vocal Solo, "The Sweetest Story," Mollie Cunningham; Piano Solo, "Curious Story," Jean Hooker; Duet, "Hungarian Dance," Marion Gold and Elizabeth Thompson; Solo, "Twilight at Caracassone," Elizabeth Cunningham; Vocal Solo, "In the Garden of My Heart," and "Just Some-thing," Mrs. W. B. Granger; Piano Solo, "Rokery March," Elizabeth Thompson; Duet, "Between Two Loves," Mary Jameson, Miss Alicia Fisher, who is here to establish the Nursery School, spoke briefly on her work. Mrs. J. O. Ellis, Mrs. P. D. Stevens and Mrs. J. O. Jameson received the guests at the door and the hostesses; Mrs. J. B. Stoker, Mrs. H. H. Hart, Mrs. F. A. Le Pile, served tea and coffee, cookies and sandwiches at a beautifully decorated table with Mrs. F. D. Stevens and Mrs. J. O. Ellis putting, those who enjoyed the "Tea" were: Mrs. L. W. Bartlett, Mrs. E. C. Lutz, Mrs. T. E. Laffey, Mrs. W. W. Miller, Miss Doris Reed, Mrs. D. Fleming, Mrs. Sam Fleming, Mrs. W. R. Hooker, Mrs. R. E. Freeman, Mrs. H. L. Haney, Mrs. Roscoe Harris, Mrs. Ivan Van Horn, Mrs. L. M. West, Mrs. N. V. Nielsen, Mrs. R. T. Heller, Mrs. Ila J. Thelma, Mrs. Edith Hatcher, Mrs. Mary Schleicher, Mrs. Jack Rogers, Mrs. P. A. Le Pile, Mrs. W. P. Hill, Mrs. W. W. McCurdy, Mrs. R. L. Bass, Mrs. Ernest King, Mrs. M. R. Carver, Mrs. C. C. Livingston, Mrs. Paul C. Clarke, Mrs. L. E. Hamilton, Mrs. Floyd Chapman, Mrs. Leith Jones, Mrs. Charles Maynard, Mrs. M. M. Sabien, Mrs. J. O. Jameson, Mrs. J. F. Freedlund, Mrs. R. W. Kibler, Mrs. E. L. Benedict of Clinton, Wis., Mrs. J. G. Dresser, Rockford, Ill., Mrs. Clyde Green, Mrs. G. W. Ogles, Mrs. J. C. Laffey, Mrs. Frank Votaggio, Mrs. Harry James, Mrs. J. O. Darden, Mrs. Fred Ogles, Mrs. Mary White, Mrs. W. J. White, Mrs. R. C. Alston, Mrs. H. A. Stoenberg, Miss Alicia Fisher - of New York City, Mrs. Herbert Beck, Mrs. W. B. Granger, Mrs. J. W. Wilson, Mrs. J. A. Fife, Mrs. A. C. Kruming, Mrs. B. E. Free, Mrs. Edith Henderson, Mrs. R. M. Lane, Mrs. L. L. O'Neil, Jr., Mrs. J. H. Chambliss, Mrs. L. C. Warren, Mrs. M. W. Giese, Mrs. Oia C. Thompson, Mrs. Frank Morris, Mrs. Ellen Heam, Mrs. Mrs. H. H. Hart, Mrs. Charles Beck, Mrs. J. R. Neller.

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R. Collins leading. Mrs. Marion Irlby will lead at the next meeting. Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Granger of Vero Beach have been the guests of their son and family. Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Woodhouse of Vero Beach, soprano soloist of The First Methodist Church of Fort Myers; and Mildred Weig, baritone, will arrive Tuesday and be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Granger while here. Let all who enjoy good music come. Tickets are 50 cents with no charge for small children.

Chamber Elects 12—

(Continued from Page 1)
said and each was judged by J. F. Scullen, Mrs. D. P. Farmer, Mrs. Harold Riedel and Mrs. P. B. Browne Tuesday night.

President Scullen next told the Chamber that they would have a definite report on the proposed park for Belle Glade within one week and they would learn whether or not it is to be established soon. He added that the outlook is favorable.

In a brief summary, Scullen pointed out that Belle Glade is fast approaching a position where quick action must be taken. He said that Belle Glade has but two years in which to build up and invite outside investment and activity. Other communities are also planning expansion, said Scullen. He said that Lake Okeechobee could easily be advertised as an excellent sporting ground for large yachts which cruise South-Florida waters during the season. Fresh water is well-known as an indicator of salt water worms and barnacles and the ships could be navigated from Ft. Lauderdale to the Lake.

Bill Pierce followed with a speech urging the re-election of James Scullen as president of the Chamber. Final action, however, was deferred until the director's meeting Monday night.

April 1 was agreed upon as an annual expiration date for collection of yearly dues and all members not remitting by that date will become delinquent. The agreement was put in the form of a motion, made by L. E. Will and seconded by J. E. Caldwell.

Expert Talks To—

(Continued from Page One)
tanning cattle, raised on poorer sections, in the Glades. The combination of grain, roughage and straw should make this area exceptionally conducive to solid, high-quality weight adding he said.

A period of 120 to 150 days of fattening is about average and the feeding program should be arranged to allow slaughtering in winter months, said Dr. Smeal.

Many problems are yet presented in beef production in this area, according to Dr. Shealy, but the various departments of the State agricultural system will continue to work on them. Copper, iron and cobalt are lacking in the soil and the lack of success in calf

raising are most important problems, he concluded.

Other visitors at the Rotary meeting included County Agent M. T. Mounts, Dr. W. C. Kirk, Dr. W. M. Neal, Dr. Becker, and Drs. Goodwin and Riley, from Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; Jos Hill and Dick Prescott, West Palm Beach; E. G. Kilpatrick, Bert Lapp, C. A. Bailey and John Delaney, Palmdale, W. R. Robson, Medill, Okla.; and H. L. Haney, Belle Glade.

FURNISH FILMS FREE

The film library of the University of Florida Visual Education Department is now prepared to provide schools of the state with films showing the growing, harvesting, milling and refining of Florida sugar. Sound films covering the entire process are being supplied without cost by the United States Sugar Corporation of Cleveland and the Savannah Sugar Refining Company of Savannah, refiners of Florida "Dixie Crystals" sugar.

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TUES.	Jimmy Fidler — Edw. G. Robinson AL JOLSON — "WE THE PEOPLE" Benny Goodman — "Dr. Christian"
WED.	"Ask-it-Basket" — GANG BUSTERS PAUL WHITEMAN — STAR THEATER Raymond Paige, 99 Men and A Girl
THURS.	JOE PENNER — KATE SMITH MAJOR BOWES — "Tune-Up Time"
FRI.	Singing Timbren — BURNS & ALLEN "Captains Of Industry" — WAYNE KING
SAT.	JOE E. BROWN — PHIL BAKER PET SERENADE — HIT PARADE
SUN.	Gateway To Hollywood — Screen Guild Ford Sunday Evening Hour — Robert Benchley

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